



U. S. Department of Commerce
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Coast and Geodetic Survey



Commissioning

USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER

July 13, 1966

Washington Navy Yard

Washington, D. C.

The USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER is one of a fleet of research and survey vessels used by the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA) to improve man's understanding and use of the physical environment. Ocean Survey Ship (OSS) 01 is operated by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, a major element of ESSA, and commanded by officers of the ESSA commissioned corps. The ship's principal user is the Institute for Oceanography, one of ESSA's Institutes for Environmental Research.

OCEANOGRAPHER is the largest ship ever built by the United States specifically to conduct oceanographic research and survey operations. The ship combines a full environmental research capability with unique features of design - versatility in handling scientific gear over the side; an extensive use of automated engineroom control and data systems; radio, radar, and satellite navigation equipment; a research-oriented arrangement of living quarters, laboratories, and oceanographic work areas; and planned growth capability.

The ship was designed by the U. S. Maritime Administration and built under that agency's supervision by Jacksonville Shipyards, Jacksonville, Fla., under contract to the Aerojet-General Corporation. Coast and Geodetic Survey personnel assisted as part of the construction staff at the shipyard.

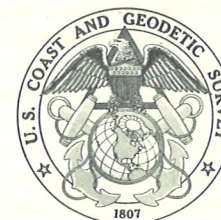
Commissioning of the USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER, on July 13, 1966, marked a major step forward in the Nation's oceanographic effort, and a major improvement in the equipment available to probe the secrets of the global sea.

Significant Facts

Keel laid 22 July 1963
 Launching 18 April 1964
 Sponsor Mrs. Luther H. Hodges
 Construction completed 20 April 1966
 Commanding Officer Captain Arthur L. Wardwell, USESSA
 Executive Officer Commander John R. Plaggmier, USESSA
 Home port Seattle, Washington

General Description

Length, overall 303 feet
 Beam, molded 52 feet
 Draft, full load 18 feet
 Displacement, full load 3805 long tons
 Service speed 16 knots
 Range 13,000 nautical miles
 Endurance (provisions) 150 days
 Complement 97



COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES

Invocation

Rev. Frederick B. Harris
 Chaplain, U. S. Senate

Commissioning of the Ship

The Commissioning Colors are made

The Commanding Officer

Acceptance of Command

The Commanding Officer

Set the Watch

The Commanding Officer

Principal Address

Benediction

Rev. Frederick B. Harris
 Chaplain, U. S. Senate

Secure

Inspection of Ship by Invited Guests